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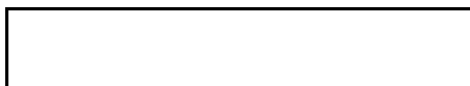
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
26 May 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report  
(As of 1630 EDT)



NAVY review(s) completed.



4. Despite their routinely virulent anti-Israeli propaganda, Moscow's leaders have, during the present crisis, avoided taking either in public, or apparently even in private talks with the Arabs, any less ambiguous stand than the Soviet government statement of 23 May -- which did not mention Nasir's blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Zimyatov today ritualistically blamed the situation on "Israeli: provocations against the Arabs" but he noted pointedly that the Soviet Union's policy "proceeds from the premise that the USSR wants peace in the Near East."

5. Pravda's initial comment from its Cairo correspondent concerning the Gulf of Aqaba on 26 May was characteristically noncommittal, pointing out that prior to the "tripartite aggression" of 1956 Egyptian troops had been located at the entrance of the Gulf, but stopping short of explicitly endorsing the Egyptian claim to possession of the waters.

6. Cairo's Voice of Palestine broadcast today an account of a typically fiery speech by the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Ahmad Shuqayri, which was the Friday sermon at Al-Azhar mosque in Cairo. After calling on all Moslems to declare a Holy War (Jihad) "against Israel and those behind it," he called on the Islamic world and the Arab nation to take the following steps if the US or Britain "interferes" in the present crisis: close all ports to US ships, close all airports to US planes and the planes of US allies, and destroy petroleum installations "from the wells to the terminals, including pipelines." On 24 May the central council of the International Confederation of Arab workers passed a resolution which called upon Arab workers to take the same action and, indeed, more, in attacking Western installations.

7. Cypriot President Makarios, who has long cultivated the friendship of Egyptian President Nasir, has announced that the government of Cyprus will act in "various ways to foil any probable attempt to use the British bases in Cyprus against the Arab States".

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